



Sedbergh Primary School

Governors Annual Statement – September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of another academic year, I am writing to let you know some of the details relating to the Governing Body's activities during the past year and our future plans.

In accordance with the Government's requirement for all boards of governors, the three strategic functions of the Sedbergh Primary School board are:

- ***ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction***
- ***holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and***
- ***overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent***

Governance

The Board of Governors comprises of 8 members which includes two staff governors (including the headteacher), two elected parent governors and one governor who is appointed by the local authority. The other members, coming from a range of backgrounds, have been co-opted onto the board because, in our opinion, they have the skills needed to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

The full board continues to meet five times per year, at least once termly, to discuss, monitor and challenge items of formal business. We also have three committees that meet regularly to consider different aspects of the school in detail. At 'Sedbergh Primary' we have a Finance, Budget and Resources Committee that considers finance, budget, facilities, and premises as well as health and safety issues, a Curriculum and Staffing Committee that examines the curriculum and pupil progress and staffing and a Pay and Appraisal Committee that is responsible for staffing issues such as pay and performance.

Within the board individual 'lead' governors have responsibilities for liaising with the Senior Leadership Team in specific areas, including Safeguarding, SEND, Health and Safety, Finance and specific curriculum subjects. We aim to increase governor board membership this year to ensure balanced workloads for members and provide better coverage of our strategic functions.

Attendance Record of Governors

The Board of Governors are a committed team and attendance at meetings is excellent (*attendance records are available on the website*). Members also, throughout the year, visit the school, attending events, observing classes, meeting with teachers and pupils and when necessary, speaking to external advisors.

We undergo regular training via the National Governance Association (NGA) and other appropriate training providers by attending courses or online modules in all aspects of school life from safeguarding to finance. We also invite staff members to give school focused training around key aspects of our roles and responsibilities. This allows for a deeper understanding of our school context within a wider professional and national context.

What we have done in the Year 2022/23

- All maintained schools follow the National Curriculum; our role is to ensure the school implements any changes in a way that ensures progress for all pupils and achieves a high level of attainment utilizing all grants and other resources in ensuring the reconnection of pupil's education after the pandemic restrictions. This has been demonstrated by the excellent results in KS2 SATS. This has been achieved through a team effort by all our teaching and support staff coupled with the fantastic effort made by our outgoing Year 6 pupils.
- In January 2022 and July 2023, our school had Ofsted inspections, we are pleased that we continued to be graded as before 'GOOD', a copy of the reports can be found on the Ofsted website. Governors are aware of the new 'Ofsted Framework for Inspection', where the priorities of inspection have altered placing the curriculum along with leadership and management firmly at the core.
- The School Development Plan is a 'living document' and is reviewed at all governor meetings ensuring that we continue to monitor, challenge, and remain focused with all pupils throughout the school benefiting.
- The school continues to be committed to inclusivity for all children and ensures key changes and development regarding SEND are implemented. Our policies in this area ensure that emphasis is placed on the relationship between school and parents/carers and continuing good practice.
- Governors have a key role in keeping children safe at school, our policy for safeguarding children is in line with the statutory framework which is in line with the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' document published in September 2023.
- Governors have continue to monitor how the government's Pupil Premium and Sports Grants are being spent, ensuring that disadvantaged children enjoy the benefits of their peers, as well as assisting with pupils' fitness, health, and wellbeing across the school. We have during the year invested amounts in both alterations and equipment in further developing facilities for all.

Future Plans

- During the Autumn Term of the 2023/24 school year, we will work with the headteacher and the schools' senior leadership team to set the school's development plan. Setting our targets and aspirations for the coming year.
- The school continues to be flexible and responsive to changing demographics and class sizes. Combined year classes will be restricted to Years 3/4. We will continue to ensure measures are in place to support teachers to continue to deliver, excellent well-balanced lessons in line with issued guidelines.
- Wraparound care continues to be offered to all parents/carers with pupils on the school role i.e. Reception to Year 6 inclusive, giving the opportunity to attend breakfast and after school facilities. Governors are eager to maintain this important additional facility for pupils and families and are closely monitoring its progress and attendance.
- Safeguarding children will always remain a priority and our focus will be on emotional and wellbeing as well as e-safety.
- Governors will continue to review the way in which we communicate with parents/carers.

- We will continue to equip our children for a Modern Britain by promoting British Values such as democracy, the law, liberty, respect, and tolerance as set down by the government. These sit alongside 'Our School Vision' embracing our Aims and Objectives.

Contact

We always welcome suggestions, feedback, and ideas from parents/carers, or if you wish to join our board. Please feel very welcome to contact me, Elliot Hartley, Chair of Governors, via the school office or email at chair@sedbergh-pri.cumbria.sch.uk.

Kind Regards

Elliot Hartley

**Chair of Governors
Sedbergh Primary School**